

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A sausage extrusion tube, comprising,
an elongated hollow tube having a meat emulsion intake end and a meat emulsion discharge end,
a restrictor element in the tube to partially restrict the longitudinal movement of sausage emulsion therethrough so as to divide meat emulsion passing therethrough into separate longitudinal portions comprised of first portion of meat emulsion that passes, engages and is deflected to pass over the restrictor element, and a second portion that does not engage the restrictor element and passes thereby without being deflected.

20. (original) The device of claim 19 wherein the cross sectional area of the restrictor element with respect to the cross sectional area in a hollow portion of the tube is between 1-2 to 1-8.

21. (original) The device of claim 19 wherein the restrictor element is located in an off-center position within the tube.

22. (previously presented) The device of claim 19 wherein a downstream end of the restrictor element is approximately 10mm from the discharge end.

23. (previously presented) The device of claim 19 wherein the restrictor element engages a bottom portion of the hollow tube, and has a concave arcuate surface on a top surface thereof.

24. (original) The device of claim 19 wherein an open passageway is formed above the restrictor element having an elliptical cross-sectional shape.

25. (original) The device of claim 19 wherein an inclined ramp is on an upstream end of the restrictor element.

26. (new) The device of claim 23 wherein the restrictor element has a forward end that extends diagonally from the tube to the top surface.